

HAER  
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16-CH19,  
123-

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,  
COLUMBUS AVENUE

HAER No. IL-136

Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor  
Columbus Avenue crossing the Chicago River  
Chicago  
Cook County  
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,  
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~~(Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor)~~  
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Location: Columbus Avenue crossing the Chicago River  
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Date of  
Construction: ca. 1973

Present Owner: City of Chicago.

Present Use: Highway Bridge.

Significance: Constructed in the early 1970s, the Columbus Avenue Bridge represents a continuation of the Chicago bascule bridge design, originally developed and refined in the early twentieth century by engineers employed by the city of Chicago.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1987.

Project  
Information: This photographic documentation project of the bascule bridges crossing the Chicago River was carried out by Jet Lowe, HAER staff photographer, in 1987 and followed on the heels of an inventory of historic engineering and industrial sites in the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. HAER historian Gray Fitzsimons was project manager for this undertaking.